

REMARKS

The present response amends claim 1 in conformity with the following remarks. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the captioned case.

Section 112 Rejection

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the Office Action rejected independent claims 1 and 14. In response thereto, Applicants have amended claim 1 as suggested by the Examiner. With regard to claim 14, the Examiner queried where is the exact location of a first portion with respect to a second portion. In response thereto, Applicants believe Figs. 5 and 6 of the present application help clarify this point of confusion.

As shown in Fig. 5, for example, an I/O region 44 surrounds core region 46 (Specification -- pg. 12, line 11). I/O region 44 includes four I/O sub-regions 48 (Specification -- pg. 12, lines 13-14). Within each sub-region 48 (of which only one is shown for brevity purposes in Fig. 5), there is a first portion made up of I/O cells 52 and a second portion made up of core logic 58 (Specification -- pg. 12, lines 21-22; pg. 13, line 30 - pg. 14, line 11). Core logic 58 can extend within and beyond the outermost boundary of the corresponding I/O sub-region if needed (Specification -- compare Figs. 5 and 6; pg. 14, lines 13-14). Nonetheless, each of the four I/O sub-regions has a portion reserved for the I/O cells and core logic, as set forth in claim 14.

In light of the amendment to claim 1 and the above explanation regarding claim 14, Applicants respectfully request removal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

The present amendment and response is believed to be a complete response to the issues raised in the Office Action mailed June 15, 2004. Accordingly, Applicants assert that pending claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference.

No fees are required for filing this amendment; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to LSI Logic Corporation Deposit Account No. 12-2252/02-6109.

Respectfully submitted,



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